



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Chris Paisley	61 (-10)
T2	Ben Silverman	63 (-8)
T2	Cameron Tringale	63 (-8)
T4	Eight players tied	64 (-7)

England's Chris Paisley posts 10-under 61 to lead Web.com Tour Championship

ATLANTIC BEACH, Florida – England's Chris Paisley used four starts on the 2017-18 PGA TOUR to earn a spot in the Web.com Tour Finals and inched one step closer to full status on golf's biggest stage on Thursday at the Web.com Tour Championship. Paisley recorded eight birdies and one eagle on his way to a 10-under 61, good for a two-shot lead heading into Friday's second round of the Web.com Tour's season-ending event.

Paisley opened his week at host Atlantic Beach Country Club with three birdies in his first four holes before closing with a birdie on the 17th and an eagle on the par-5 18th (thanks to a holed bunker shot) to turn in 6-under 30 after starting on the back nine.

The 32-year-old's momentum slowed mid-round with four pars on Nos. 1-4, but he rallied quickly thereafter with a birdie on the short par-3 fifth and back-to-back birdies on Nos. 7 and 8 to reach nine-under overall.

"I think just all around was really good. I hit it well off the tee, which gave me a lot of kind of short irons into the greens and opportunities to, you know, I had to knock it on the green in two on the par 5s or leave a good wedge number," he said. "I hit a lot of really good iron shots close, and then a few other bonus kind of things happened where I holed the bunker shot on 18 and holed a long putt on No. 8. So, there was a couple little things like that that obviously helped a lot."

Paisley, who won twice during his college golf career at the University of Tennessee, turned professional in 2009 and has since spent the majority of his time playing overseas on the European and Challenge Tours. Since 2015, he has competed mainly on the European Tour, earning third-place finishes in the 2015 BMW International Open, 2016 Italian Open and 2017 Made in Denmark.

Earlier this year, the Stocksfield, England, resident broke through for the biggest win of his career when he captured the BMW SA Open in South Africa with a three-shot victory over PGA TOUR winner Branden Grace. The biggest week of his career, however, may have come at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in April, where he and fellow Englishman Tommy Fleetwood partnered in the team event to finish T4. The \$216,900 paycheck, coupled with earnings from a T37 effort at the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship in March allowed Paisley to earn a spot in the Web.com Tour Finals via non-member FedExCup points.

"Well, I mean, the nice thing was I won early in the year in Europe. I've got the first two Final series events locked up, I think I'm in those. I'm not guaranteed to be in Dubai yet," said Paisley when asked of his decision to play in the Finals. "But I just thought we have a house over here, my wife's American, my goal is to try to get on the PGA TOUR, so it was a perfect opportunity to try and do it."

Paisley missed the cut in each of the first three Finals events, which left him needing a strong week at the Web.com Tour Championship in order to achieve his PGA TOUR goal.

“In January I obviously played amazing and I was ‘Player of the Month’ in Europe and I went from 300th in the world to top 100 in the world and everything’s great,” he said. “Then all of a sudden about four or five months where I can’t make a cut and can’t seem to break par. It’s just a weird game.”

Paisley needs to finish in a two-way tie for fourth or better, in order to mathematically secure his card.

“I’m sure it’s a thing where you miss the first three, you don’t play very well and your expectations drop and you almost write it off, a bit like what I have. I was just trying to make a cut and get back to playing well again. So kind of putting that pressure on yourself and maybe it frees you up and you just have that really good week, hole a few putts, get a bit of confidence,” Paisley said. “It’s the nature of golf, I think. It’s a strange sport psychologically and hopefully I’m one of those guys that does that.”

Ben Silverman and Cameron Tringale are tied for second, two shots back of Paisley after matching rounds of 8-under 63.

Silverman, who played in the morning wave, was the outright leader for much of the day in Atlantic Beach, recording eight birdies against zero bogeys to set the early mark.

“I’ll make it easy,” quipped Silverman when asked to sum up his round. “I hit a lot of good shots and made some good putts. Actually, it could have been lower, but I’m not complaining. Missed a couple putts inside six feet, but I’m not complaining at all, it was a great round.”

From 2014 through 2016, Silverman competed on the Mackenzie Tour – PGA TOUR Canada, posting four top-10s in 26 events, including a career-best runner-up at The Syncrude Boreal Open Presented by AECOM. He qualified for the Web.com Tour via Q-School in 2015 and again in 2016 after losing his card.

In 2017, Silverman bloomed late on the Web.com Tour, posting four consecutive top-10 finishes – including a win at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper – to finish No. 10 on the money list, securing one of 25 PGA TOUR cards awarded at the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by KraftHeinz, where he finished T2.

On the PGA TOUR, Silverman recorded two top-10 finishes in his first five starts to finish the fall season at No. 49 in the FedExCup, but struggled thereafter with just three top-25 finishes and a missed cut at the Wyndham Championship to wind up at No. 136. That standing guaranteed him conditional 126-150 status on TOUR next season, but put him in the Web.com Tour Finals with hopes on improving his standing.

“I have zero pressure on myself right now. I know I’m going to get some starts on TOUR next year anyway with my conditional status and I’m thinking more long term,” he said. “I like the strategy that I’m going with my game moving forward, so I’m just going to play and try to make some birdies, see what happens.”

After opening the Finals with a T58 finish at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship, Silverman notched back-to-back missed cuts at the DAP Championship presented by NewBrick and the Albertsons Boise Open presented by Kraft Nabisco to dip to No. 103 on the Finals-only money list.

Tringale, who played in Thursday’s afternoon wave, turned in a modest 2-under 33 but played brilliant golf on the closing nine with birdies on 10, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 for a 6-under 30 and an opening 63.

“I really hit my irons well, I gave myself a lot of good birdie opportunities,” said Tringale. “I believe I just had look after look all day and really had a low stress round and was able to get some of those putts to go in.”

Tringale has accrued 243 PGA TOUR starts over his career, notching three runner-up finishes and over \$9.8 million in earnings. After finishing 195th in the FedExCup this past year, he was forced to return to the Web.com Tour Finals again in order to secure playing status for the 2018-19 season.

The former Georgia Tech star used a T5 at the 2017 Web.com Tour Championship to earn his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season and feels good about his chances on an Atlantic Beach Country Club course that suits his eye.

“No doubt, I like the golf course,” he said. “To come back a year later and think, ‘Oh, I played well last year, I can do it again despite how I was playing coming in,’ it feels doable. I’m excited for the next three days and to see how I can hold up.”

THURSDAY NOTES:

- * Weather: Mostly sunny with a high of 89 degrees; Winds E/NE at 11-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.
- * This week marks the last event of the Web.com Tour Finals, a four-event series that concludes at the Web.com Tour Championship in Atlantic Beach, Florida, Sept. 20-23. Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards were awarded following the WinCo Foods Portland Open presented by Kraft-Heinz. An additional 25 cards will be handed out following the conclusion of play Sunday, and positioning for all 50 cards will be set.
- * Heading into Friday, there are four international players inside the top 10 on the leaderboard. Thus far in 2018, the Web.com Tour has had winners from nine different countries outside of the United States claim 12 titles in the first 26 events: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, England, France, Germany, Mexico and South Korea.
- * The Web.com Tour has produced 21 first-time winners this year. With 54 holes left to play, there are currently three players inside the top 10 looking for their first Tour title.
- * Leading the contingency of PGA TOUR Latinoamérica alums in this week's field is 2017 DAP Championship winner Nicholas Lindheim. Lindheim has made five career starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, making all five cuts and taking home a victory in two (2014 Arturo Calle Colombian Classic Presentado por Avianca and 2015 Mundo Maya Open presentado por Heineken).
- * Trevor Cone finished T99 at Q-School last December and made just three starts this season before a T8 at the LECOM Health Challenge improved his status for the remainder of the summer. At the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae, Cone posted 23-under 257 for his first Web.com Tour title to move from No. 135 to No. 37 on the money list to ensure a spot in the Finals.
- * Denny McCarthy entered the week as one of the most consistent performers in the Finals, posting T5, T9 and T13 finishes in the first three events to secure a return to the PGA TOUR with \$75,792 in earnings. McCarthy played the Web.com Tour in 2017, where he used the Finals to earn his card, thanks to three top-20 finishes – including a T12 effort at the Web.com Tour Championship.
- * 2014 Web.com Tour Player of the Year Carlos Ortiz parred the first nine holes of his opening round before birdieing Nos. 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 18 for a 7-under 64. Ortiz finished second at the season-opening Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay and finished the Regular Season at No. 21 on the money list to secure a return to the PGA TOUR this fall.
- * 2009 champion Matt Every (7-under 64) is attempting to become the first player in Web.com Tour Championship history to win the event two times. Thirteen players have won the same event twice in Web.com Tour history, with Casey Wittenberg (2012, 2017 Chitimacha Louisiana Open) being the most recent.
- * Through 18 holes, there are three PGA TOUR winners inside the top 10: Every (two wins), Lucas Glover (three wins) and Ben Crane (five wins).
- * Through 26 events this year, four first-round leaders have captured a title at the end of the week, with the most recent being Kramer Hickok at the DAP Championship presented by NewBrick.
- * The first-round leader/co-leader has won five times in the 24-year history of the Web.com Tour Championship: Stewart Cink (1996), Steve Flesch (1997), Bob Heintz (1999), Brendan Steele (2010) and Justin Bolli (2012).
- * The Web.com Tour Championship field includes two players who are Atlantic Beach Country Club members: Steve Wheatcroft (73) and Vince Covello (69).
- * Money earned by the No. 25 player on the Finals-only money list in each of the past four years (excluding 2016, when the Web.com Tour Championship was cancelled): 2013 (Bobby Gates, \$33,650), 2014 (Eric Axley, \$36,311.66), 2015 (Rob Oppenheim, \$32,206) and 2017 (Seamus Power, \$40,625).
- * Players ranked Nos. 23-30 on the Finals-only money list and where they stand:

Player	Finals \$	Score	Standing	Projected Money List
23. Wes Roach	\$33,600	67	T24	27
24. Scott Pinckney	\$33,320	71	T84	34

25. Brian Campbell	\$32,325	69	T56	32
26. Justin Lower	\$31,975	68	T39	31
27. Henrik Norlander	\$31,687	67	T24	28
28. Ben Crane	\$31,305	64	T4	17
29. Fabián Gómez	\$29,157	68	T39	35
30. Matt Every	\$25,733	64	T4	19

* Atlantic Beach Country Club scoring average:

	Front (35)	Back (36)	Total (71)
Round 1	34.363	34.823	69.185

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